

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A dry kiln system for drying a stack of lumber, comprising:

at least one kiln chamber defining a chamber interior space capable of receiving a stack of lumber for drying;

a chamber heating source capable of providing heated air;

an air moving device capable of circulating heated air supplied to the chamber interior space;

a condensation collection device for collecting liquid in the chamber interior space; and

an evaporation system for introducing or re-introducing ~~evaporating~~ collected liquid to a ~~from the~~ chamber interior space for conversion into steam inside the chamber interior space.

Claim 2 (Original). The dry kiln system of claim 1, wherein:

the condensation collection device is an evaporator coil in the chamber interior space.

Claim 3 (Original). The kiln system of claim 1, further comprising:

a drain system to receive liquid from the condensation device.

Claim 4 (Original). The dry kiln system of claim 3, wherein the condensation collection device directs liquid to a liquid drainage system.

Claim 5 (Original). The dry kiln system of claim 1, wherein:

the condensation device comprises a liquid contact surface.

Claim 6 (Original). The dry kiln system of claim 5, wherein:

the dry kiln system further comprises a liquid drainage system, and

said the liquid contact surface directs liquid toward the evaporation system.

Claim 7 (Original). The dry kiln system of claim 5, wherein the liquid contact surface slopes to a liquid drain system, utilizing gravity to direct liquid toward a liquid drainage system.

Claim 8 (Original). The dry kiln system of claim 5, wherein the liquid contact surface is a sloping floor of the chamber interior space.

Claim 9 (Original). The dry kiln system of claim 1, wherein:

the heating source is further capable of providing heat to the evaporation system to effect evaporation of liquid collected by the condensation collection device.

Claim 10 (Original). The dry kiln system of claim 1, wherein:

the evaporation system comprises a liquid holding tank and an evaporation device heating source, wherein the heating source effects evaporation of the liquid in the holding tank.

Claim 11 (Original). The dry kiln system of claim 1, wherein:

the evaporation device comprises a liquid holding tank, and heat from the chamber heating source is directed to the liquid holding tank to effect evaporation of the liquid in the holding tank.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended). The dry kiln system of claim 1, wherein the evaporation system ~~device~~ comprises a pump to direct collected liquid into the kiln chamber for heating to effect evaporation.

Claim 13 (Original). The dry kiln system of claim 12, wherein the pump directs liquid to a floor surface of the chamber interior space for heating to effect evaporation.

Claim 14 (Original). The dry kiln system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of kiln chambers defining a chamber interior space capable of receiving a stack of lumber for drying.

Claim 15 (Original). The dry kiln system of claim 14, wherein the system further comprises a liquid drain system capable of receiving liquid from each kiln chamber and capable of delivering said liquid to the evaporation system.

Claim 16 (Original). The dry kiln system of claim 14, wherein collected liquid from said plurality of kiln chambers is directed to a common pump chamber for delivery to an evaporation system.

Claim 17 (Original). The dry kiln system of claim 16, wherein the evaporation system comprises a liquid holding tank with a heat source to effect evaporation.

Claim 18 (Original). The dry kiln system of claim 17, wherein the evaporation system comprises a surface of a kiln chamber interior space of at least one kiln in the kiln system.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended). The dry kiln system of claim 15 wherein the evaporation system directs the liquid to a kiln chamber and a holding tank.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended). A process for drying lumber, comprising:

- providing a kiln system that comprises
  - a chamber interior space for receiving a quantity of stacked lumber;
  - a chamber heating source for heating the air within the structure for drying the lumber; and
  - a condensation collection device for collecting liquid in the chamber interior space;
- placing a quantity of stacked wet lumber within the chamber interior surface;
- circulating heated air within the chamber interior surface and about the stacked lumber to dry the lumber and cause liquid in the wet lumber to escape as vapor;
- collecting liquid from condensed vapor in the chamber interior surface;
- introducing or re-introducing the collected liquid into the chamber interior space; and

evaporating said liquid in the chamber interior space ~~to prevent effluent liquid in the process for drying lumber.~~

Claim 21 (Original). The process of claim 20, wherein collecting and evaporating steps are effected by:

providing a pump chamber and an evaporation unit;

pumping the collected liquid to the evaporating unit to effect evaporation.

Claim 22 (Original). The process of claim 20, wherein the evaporation unit is a liquid storage tank downstream from the pump chamber.

Claim 23 (Original). The process of claim 20, wherein the evaporation unit is a surface of a chamber interior space.

Claim 24 (Original). The process of claim 21, wherein the pump chamber directs liquid collected from more than one chamber interior space.

Claim 25 (Original). The process of claim 24, wherein the pump chamber directs collected liquid to more than one evaporation unit

Claim 26 (New). A dry kiln system for drying a stack of lumber, comprising:

at least one kiln chamber defining a chamber interior space capable of receiving a stack of lumber for drying;

a chamber heating source capable of providing heated air;

an air moving device capable of circulating heated air supplied to the chamber interior space;

a condensation collection device for collecting liquid in the chamber interior space; and

an evaporation system for introducing or re-introducing collected liquid to a chamber interior space for conversion into steam inside the chamber interior space, wherein the evaporation system comprises a pump to direct collected liquid into a kiln chamber for heating to effect evaporation.

Claim 27 (New). The system of claim 26, wherein the pump directs liquid to a floor surface of the chamber interior space for heating to effect evaporation.

Claim 28 (New). A dry kiln system for drying a stack of lumber, comprising:

at least one kiln chamber defining a chamber interior space capable of receiving a stack of lumber for drying;

a chamber heating source capable of providing heated air;

an air moving device capable of circulating heated air supplied to the chamber interior space;

a condensation collection device for collecting liquid in the chamber interior space; and

an evaporation system for introducing or re-introducing collected liquid to a chamber interior space for conversion into steam inside the chamber interior space;

wherein the system comprises a plurality of kiln chambers defining a chamber interior space capable of receiving a stack of lumber for drying, and comprises a liquid drain system capable of receiving liquid from each kiln chamber and capable of delivering said liquid to the evaporation system.

Claim 29 (New). The dry kiln system of claim 28, wherein the evaporation system directs the liquid to a kiln chamber and a holding tank.